

of my colleagues will join me in honoring Father Popieluszko, the Polish people, and the members of the Polish-American Congress who will honor him on Sunday, October 22.

THE 72D ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST

HON. WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to challenge the notion that one shouldn't mix business and pleasure. That's exactly what we've been doing for 72 years in Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest, and it's worked remarkably well.

The Commonwealth's only national forest, it is one of northwest Pennsylvania's greatest assets. Selective harvesting of timber has created thousands of jobs, provides funding for schools and roads, and returns millions of dollars annually to the U.S. Treasury. The University of Pittsburgh at Bradford has estimated that "5,540 jobs are directly related to wood products, and another 12,576 are significantly impacted by the forest products industry."

But its economic benefits don't stop there. Each year, 12 million visitors—and area residents—enjoy camping, fishing, and hiking in the forest. If any of my colleagues and their families would like to visit, I'd be happy to identify some truly amazing sites.

I'm proud to say that this mix of work and pleasure is balanced with a keen awareness and diligent attention to the forest's conservation needs. By responsibly harvesting our renewable timber resources, we allow the forest to flourish and continue to fuel the economy.

The Allegheny National Forest strikes a wonderful balance between its many uses and its needs. For many, it's a source of livelihood; for millions more, a recreational haven. And, through its responsible management, it will remain so for generations to come.

The saying "don't mix business and pleasure" may have its merits, but it's also important to remember another, "there's an exception to every rule." Pennsylvania's national forest is certainly exceptional.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to recognize the Allegheny National Forest on its 72d anniversary, and to congratulate all those who have come to enjoy, respect, and benefit from it.

THE FEDERAL BUDGET

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, a constituent of mine, Mr. Norman Hardy of West Palm Beach, FL, sent me the following article regarding balancing the Federal budget. Mr. Hardy said this article is "right on the mark" and I agree with him. The same municipalities and local governments that the new Republican majority claim were the ones to request the block grants are now the ones saying we may need to slow down. Balancing the budget and block-granting Federal funds might have

sounded good in the abstract but the reality may very well be disastrous.

[From the Palm Beach Post, Sept. 24, 1995]
WASHINGTON'S MESSAGE TO AMERICA'S CITIES:
DROP DEAD

(By Nancy Graham)

I am gravely concerned about where this country seems to be heading. That puts me among the 60 percent or more of Americans who would like to join a third political party.

What I see at the state and federal levels in the way of partisan politics disgusts me. As the elected leader of the largest city in Palm Beach County, it is clear to me that our "elected representatives" at those levels, particularly those in Washington, have no knowledge of the world in which most of us live—and, frankly, I don't think they even care. If we have any hope of putting Americans first, the power plays and the ego-driven, mean-spirited partisan politics must give way to reason and logic.

There is not and should not be anything partisan about local government. We are closest to the people we serve, provide most of the services, have to pick up the pieces of people's lives fractured by the actions of the state and federal governments and still try to maintain some quality of life for all our citizens.

There is no greater example of mean-spirited, ego-driven partisan politics than in the current debate over the proposed federal budget cuts. I think I will be sick to my stomach if I see another 30-second sound bite by either party extolling the virtues of its actions on the budget, or slamming the other side's. What is frightening to me is that most Americans will sit back and take these professionally scripted sound bites for the truth. There is much not being told to Americans, particularly about how these budget cuts will affect each of us, no matter where we live.

Don't get me wrong. I strongly support the goal of balancing the federal budget, reducing the federal deficit and reforming a number of federal programs such as welfare and Medicare. We will all need to sacrifice to make them happen. West Palm Beach has to balance its budget every year, in good times and in bad. We know how to impose financial discipline. We know how to cut popular services, to raise revenues. West Palm Beach is ready to do our fair share.

Congress, however, is asking local communities to take a direct hit for its years of free-wheeling spending. The budget currently under consideration does not ask cities and counties to do their fair share to balance the budget. It asks cities and counties to do the lion's share.

Proposals in Washington would have a devastating impact on crime prevention, economic development, housing, children and our elderly. Amazingly, these proposals have received very little scrutiny.

So far, Congress has engaged in a "stealth" budget process. It appears that Congress is hoping that the American people don't figure out what's going on until it's too late.

The new Congress went to Washington promising to reform government.

Unfortunately, all they did was pass the buck.

The proposed budget doesn't actually solve problems, it just shifts the problems and shifts taxes to the local level.

Worst of all, this is a very short-sighted budget. It was put together with virtually no public input or hearings. The vast majority of the cuts being made are from only one-third of the federal spending, the domestic spending for Americans. In fact, the proposed budget adds about \$7 billion in the defense

budget, an increase not even requested. We are spending more for our foreign agenda than to preserve a decent quality of life for our own citizens.

ECONOMIC FUTURE SACRIFICED

The proposed budget would sacrifice the long-term economic future of this country for short-term political gain. At a time when America should be investing in our people and our economic foundation, this budget is a unilateral retreat. This budget would cut job training. It would cut education. It would cut youth programs. There is absolutely no logic or rationale to the proposed cuts. No matter what political party one comes from, we should all agree on the need to invest in our economic future.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors and National Association of Counties recently conducted a survey of mayors and county officials to see how these proposed cuts would affect our cities and our citizens. The response was overwhelming—96 percent of the mayors believe the proposed cuts would hurt their cities and residents. Ninety-three percent believe the cuts would hurt their human-investment efforts; 84 percent foresee negative effects on their cities' economies; 85 percent see negative effects on their economic development efforts; and 86 percent believe that the effects of the cuts would extend to their regional economies.

For most city residents, the cuts would be felt in loss of services and/or increased taxes. Eighty-five percent of the survey respondents said that they would have to reduce city services; 61 percent said they would be forced to lay off city workers; 41 percent said they would be forced to raise taxes.

The survey responses from the National Association of Counties were very similar.

So what does this mean for West Palm Beach? If we are to revitalize our city, we must reduce crime, clean up our decaying neighborhoods, create economic development opportunities (businesses and jobs) and focus heavily on our youth. We have started these efforts over the past few years, but much more needs to be done. We have developed partnerships with the Palm Beach County School Board, our business community and non-profit groups to save taxpayers money. We have cut staff and worked to improve services. We cannot stretch any further.

Yet, several times a day I hear from frustrated people about what they see as a declining quality of life, fear of crime, lack of affordable housing, lack of jobs and other problems that are so complex and intertwined. Balancing the federal budget almost solely on the backs of domestic programs is going to substantially aggravate these problems and increase the public's frustration with government. West Palm Beach is by no means an isolated case.

We want welfare reform—and rightly so. Yet we cut—and in some cases eliminate—job training; we cut education, cut student loans, fail to provide decent, affordable health care, and penalize poor families who try to stay together. We talk to the working poor, and we tell them, "We want you to go to work. We want to end welfare." But what does this budget do? What messages of hope does it send to the working poor? It increases the tax burden on the working poor by lowering the earned income tax credit. The working poor will pay \$230 more a year in taxes. They are getting a tax increase. In many cases, that's a substantial percentage of their income. This is in the face of a proposed tax cut for the wealthy.

CUTS WILL PRODUCE MORE CRIME

Crime among our youth is rising at frightening rates. Young people are dropping out of school at record levels. We talk to them about staying in school so they can get a